

MINI JUNIOR REPORT 2009/2010

Yet again I report a relatively successful year for the Mini Junior Section here at Worcester RFC.

It never ceases to amaze me that year on year we have between 450 and 500 boys and girls turning up in the first month of the season to learn and play the game of rugby football at Worcester RFC. We are by far the largest Mini Junior Section in the region and have been for many years.

Many of the age groups run several squads on various Sundays travelling around local Clubs and often, in search of more demanding fixtures, further afield. This is helpful to enable the young players to develop but also essential as we maintain the local connections that we have had for many years. Rugby is still strong locally.

The success of the Section can only be down to the tremendous effort put in by my Committee, the Coaches, Managers and, more importantly, the parents especially as the geography of our new site has caused difficulties in logistics not only for ourselves but also for visiting teams with most teams playing away from the Clubhouse it has been extremely difficult to maintain a Club environment, something that we are working on over the next few seasons.

Whilst every age group has been relatively successful I would like to bring to your attention probably my 2 highlights of the season.

The first is the success of the Junior Girls. We run, in the Mini Junior Section, an U15's and U18's Girls Section. The first indicator of their success is that they on a regular basis field sufficient girls to make up a team and a full compliment of replacements. This is only something that is achieved, on a regular basis, by the biggest Clubs in the country. From time to time we struggle for opposition, however in order to keep interest in the game of those with lesser numbers, players are shared to fulfil fixtures. Secondly, both age groups are extremely successful. It is very rare for their coaches to report to me a loss and even more rare for them to report that the girls played badly and did not enjoy the game. Let's hope that we can pass to the Senior Ladies these players as they develop into young women.

The finale to our season was the Mini Junior Tournament. We have always run a Mini Junior Tournament at Sixways although for various logistical reasons especially in the Professional era and under various developments its success has peaked and troughed. We have had to postpone our Tournament for several years in order to enable the last phase of development to be completed namely the Park and Ride, East Stand and the completion of Weston's. It was a brave decision taken by the Tournament organisers, the U12's led by Tony Wilkinson, to revive the Tournament this year. It was an extremely successful venture and although you may consider I am a little biased it was by far the best Tournament organised in the region and we probably rank in the top half a dozen in the country. The organisers had nothing but praise heaped upon them from those who attended. We did have one sour comment on one website but this was from an ill informed party who remained anonymous and on the face of it was not even there.

To see hoards of 7 and 8 year olds playing "Tag" on a Stadium pitch on a beautiful sunny spring day was tremendous and I am sure will be a day they remember well into their rugby careers. Everybody wants to come back next year.

Finally, a Mini Junior Report would not be a complete report without me giving my thanks to my hard working Committee. The organisation of such a large age group does not simply fall into place it can only run with the hard work of a dedicated group. My thanks to you all for contributing to its success of the Junior Section of Worcester Rugby Football Club.

Adrian Harling
Chairman Mini Junior Section